

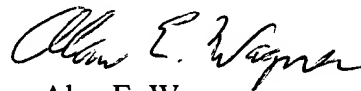
that the claims do not stand or fall together, the Applicants believe that the Appeal Brief as filed does indeed contain such arguments. Separate arguments for patentability have been presented for Claims 1-4 as a group in error 1, 2 and 5. Separate arguments for patentability for Claims 5, 7 and 9 have been argued in Errors 3 and 6 while a subgroup Claims 5 and 7 have been argued separately in Errors 3a and 6a. Claims 1, 6 and 8 were rejected together but claims 6 and 8 were argued as a subgroup while Claims 1 and 6 were argued as a different subgroup. The Appeal Brief was amended in section 7 to explain how the arguments support the grouping of the claims.

In Item 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the copy of claims in the Appeal Brief were defective because the preambles of the claims did not agree with the pending claims. The Applicants thank the Examiner for multiple telephone interviews during which the history of the claim amendments was discussed and the current status of the claims was determined. An amendment was faxed to the Examiner on October 3, 2001. The Examiner entered and considered this amendment but, due to a clerical error, the amendment was not officially entered into the file. Based on the telephone interviews, the Examiner has taken care of this clerical oversight and the pending claims stand as shown on the clean copy of the October 3, 2001 amendment. As the copy of the claims included in the Appeal Brief are the same as the clean copy of the October 3, 2001 amendment, the Examiner's objection is now moot.

Some obvious typographical errors in the Appeal Brief were also corrected. The Applicants include with this response three copies of the amended Appeal Brief along with one copy of a blacklined version to demonstrate the amendments that were made.

The Applicants do not believe that any fee is due for the filing of this amendment and response. However, if such fee is due, it should be charged to Deposit Account 23-2053. Any necessary petition should be considered to be provisionally made.

Respectfully submitted,



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